

## IMPORTANCE OF THE BÜKK DARK SKY PARK AND ITS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

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**Introduction:** International Dark Sky Park award is given by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) and can only be established in a protected, state-owned area. It can only be in a low light pollution area, and it is also important to involve those who are interested in the nightlife, astronomy, solar system objects and the wonders of the sky. They play a very important role in science promotion. The Bükk Dark Sky Park is the 49<sup>th</sup> in the world, and 3rd Hungarian dark sky park, which not only guarantees the undisturbed longevity of the nightlife, but also helps astronomical observations. The park covers the area of the Bükk National Park. There was a complete lighting reconstruction in the village of Répáshuta (the only protected village in the NP), which is a tangible and demonstrable step forward in the fight against light pollution. From here you can see curiosities with naked eye such as zodiac light, as well as the milky way. These phenomena are not visible at all from light polluted cities and habited areas. It also creates great opportunities for astronomical observations.

During the half year, visitors take part in a number of stargazing nights with telescopes. These evenings are organized by the Bükk National Park Directorate, the local association (Hive Stone Conservation and Culture Association). Eszterházy Károly University, the national park directorate, and the association's several years of work, surveys, data collection had to be done in order to prepare the submission material. After three years of work we received the international dark sky award which was given in June, 2017.

Our short and medium-term plans include the establishment of an astronomical visitor center, which helps to spread knowledge, and can be integrated into international research programs.

There are over 60 dark sky parks, preserves, and communities across the United States. Learn more about the International Dark Sky designations in the US. With rising awareness on the importance of a dark sky in the night, astronauts and national organizations have created areas away from interference by artificial light called dark sky parks. These areas exist in categories such as communities, reserves, preserves, and sanctuaries. Dark sky parks help astronomers in studying the night skies and for stargazers who wish to enjoy the night skies. There are over 60 dark sky parks, communities, and reserves in the United States located in various states as designated by the International Dark-Sky Association. Dark Sky Parks in the United States. Importance of park Every park user knows the benefits of green space, especially in urban and suburban environments, but the benefits of our parks, trails, and green spaces extend far beyond users - daily they touch the lives of every person who lives hiking and works in the community. Below is an overview of the tangible benefits provided by parks and public open spaces; together they provide very real reasons for us to invest in such community green infrastructure in its entirety. Benefits to Individuals. Parks offer opportunities to enrich the quality of life for persons of all ages and abilities. Strong evidence shows that when people have access to parks, they exercise more. Designated. 2017. Category. Dark Sky Park. Address. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén and Heves, Hungary. Contact. Mr. Richard Novák Website. Land Area. 431.3 km<sup>2</sup>. Documents. Application Press Release Annual Reports. About. Bükk is a Hungarian National Park consisting of 43,170 hectares of land in the Bükk Mountains of Northern Hungary, near the city of Miskolc. Mountainous and heavily forested, it is Hungary's largest national park, situated among the country's tallest peaks. The Park's karstic landscape makes it a mecca for spelunkers, and it is home to some ninety species of nesting birds, many endangered